

Roll Call Number 35, H.R. 3231, the Federal Intern Protection Act of 2015. On both the measures my intent was to vote "yea" had I been present on the House floor.

RECOGNIZING MS. PATRICIA  
SIMMONS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Patricia Simmons, an inspiring educational leader from Pomona, New York, who passed away on December 27, 2015.

For the last 15 years, Ms. Simmons served with distinction, grace and total dedication to students as Principal of Fleetwood Elementary School in Chestnut Ridge, New York. She was an integral, respected and beloved part of the entire East Ramapo Central School District community, serving as President of the East Ramapo Building Administrators Association, a co-founder of the Rockland Association of Black School Educators and as a board member of the CEJES Institute, a local cultural, educational, and research foundation dedicated to improving educational and social conditions for all. Ms. Simmons also served on the Spring Valley NAACP Education Committee as a strong advocate for student, parent, and community engagement in local schools.

At Fleetwood, Ms. Simmons quietly and effectively instilled a sense of hope and respect in all her students and pride and confidence in the teachers and staff. During the winter, Ms. Simmons would stand at the entrance of the school to make sure every child was wearing a coat, gloves, and hat, providing for those who did not have their own. On Fridays, Ms. Simmons would pack food in students' backpacks to make sure they did not go hungry over the weekend. Ms. Simmons and her staff at Fleetwood Elementary would also supply gifts for children and deliver turkeys for Thanksgiving to families in need.

Ms. Simmons earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Black and Hispanic Studies from the State University of New York at Oneonta; a Master of Arts in Education, specializing in Infant and Toddler Educational Development and Reading Recovery at New York University; and a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from Bank Street College. She began her career in Brooklyn as a classroom teacher and reading specialist, and later was appointed Assistant Principal at the Crispus Attucks School in Bedford Stuyvesant, until her appointment as Principal of Fleetwood Elementary. In her early years at Fleetwood Elementary, Ms. Simmons received the Excellence in Education Award in 2004 from The Parent and Student Advocacy Network in Rockland County. She was honored by the Epsilon Chi Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., as a "Bridge Builder" in 2009 for her dedication to ensuring a promising future for East Ramapo youth. She also was selected to receive the Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Award for Administrator of the Year in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the many outstanding accomplishments of my

constituent, Ms. Patricia Simmons, a true advocate for children. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her exceptional life.

HONORING JOHN A. WICKS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, John A. Wicks, Jr., who is a native of Jackson, Mississippi.

John A. Wicks, Jr. is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Wicks, Sr. of Jackson. He attended Jackson Public Schools and graduated from Murrah High School. He then matriculated at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi where he received a B.S. degree in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics and was the valedictorian of his graduating class. While at Alcorn, Brother Wicks was active in many organizations and served as president of both Alpha Kappa Mu honor society and the Alpha Zeta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Brother Wicks went on to obtain a M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia where he also served as president of the Black Graduate Student Organization. He has taught Computer Engineering at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama and Computer Science at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

In October 1977, Brother Wicks accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, uniting with New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, where he was active in the youth department. In May 1997, while working as an instructor at Tuskegee University, he acknowledged the call to preach the gospel. Subsequently, he attended the Montgomery Bible Institute in Montgomery, Alabama and served as an associate minister at Greater Peace Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama. In August 1998, Brother Wicks began service as an associate minister at New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson. In August 2000, he accepted the call to serve as the interim pastor of Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Jackson. On January 18, 2001, Brother Wicks was elected to serve as Mount Nebo's sixth pastor and was installed on March 25th.

In addition to his pastoral duties at Mount Nebo, Brother Wicks has served on various community boards including the Mission Mississippi Resource Development Committee. He has also served as a writer for the Clarion-Ledger Faith Forum and is currently serving as the State Director of Education for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc., and the Senior Vice-Moderator of the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association.

Brother Wicks has been the recipient of various awards and accolades including the Metro-Jackson chapter of the NAACP 2008 Medgar Evers Award winner, a Mississippi Gospel Music Awards 2011 Pastor of the Year honoree, and the 2011 Image Award Winner for Religion bestowed by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He is married to the former Felice

L. Dowd, a native of Marks, Mississippi, and they have three children, John Arthur III, Faith Alexandria and Grace Elizabeth. Finally, Brother Wicks' motto is traditional, tried and true: "To God be the glory for the many wonderful things He has done!"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor John A. Wicks, Jr. for his dedication to serving others.

CONGRATULATING THE CHARLES  
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE ON ITS SIXTIETH ANNI-  
VERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Charles County Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary. Since its establishment in 1956, with Reed McDonagh as its first President, the Chamber has provided a boost to the local business community through educational seminars, public forums business development strategies, and a strong voice for the needs of its members. Working in partnership with the county government, the public school system, and local community leaders, the Chamber continues to contribute to the goal of ensuring that Charles County grows and remains a great place to do business.

With each passing decade, the Charles County Chamber of Commerce has taken creative steps to fulfill its mission to support its members and advance the county as a leader for economic growth and private sector job creation in Southern Maryland through its effective advocacy, high level networking and timely communications.

The Chamber has always dedicated itself to the mission of making Charles County a great place to invest, work, and grow a business. In its first years the Chamber gave rise to the Committee of 100, which later became the county's Economic Development Commission. In the 1970's, it established the Annual Trade Show to introduce local businesses, large and small, to county residents and to promote available services. In the decade that followed, it launched a scholarship program in memory of U.S. Navy Seabee diver, Robert D. Stethem, a Charles County resident and an early victim of the War on Terrorism, an example of the many ways it has worked to strengthen the local community over the years.

The Chamber created a memorial "Business of the Year" Award honoring Reed McDonagh in the 1990's to recognize a business that provides exceptional leadership in advancing the mission of the Chamber and its core principles. Around that time as well, the Chamber played a vital role in advocating for the importance of the Naval Surface Warfare Center. Indian Head Division, during the BRAC Commission process, in which I was proud to help lead the fight to keep these installations open and an integral part of Southern Maryland's culture and economy.

In recent years, the Chamber has played a critical role in working with federal, state, and local officials to help businesses and families get back on their feet after a devastating tornado, bringing a minor league team to the

county, and forging a new international partnership through the Sister City program. The Chamber has also been an active member of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland. Now located in La Plata, its services are easily accessible to residents and businesses across Charles County, and it has broadened its efforts to take advantage of new developments in the region through its Young Professionals Group and Military Alliance Council.

Throughout its history, the Chamber has sought to provide resources, gain insight, and develop and advocate for solutions which continue making our local economy stronger and more vibrant. The Chamber prides itself on its commitment to helping members grow and prosper, and I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting the great work it has done over the past six decades. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Chamber as it continues to help make Charles County a great place live and do business.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE,  
LEGENDARY PERFORMING AND  
RECORDING ARTIST WHO NEVER  
LACKED THE COURAGE OR CON-  
FIDENCE TO CHANGE

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to David Bowie, a true trailblazer of the music and film industry.

David Bowie died on January 10, 2016 in New York City, from cancer; he was only 69 years old.

David Bowie was born David Robert Jones in Brixton, South London, England, on January 8, 1947.

David showed a strong interest in music from an early age and began playing the saxophone at the age of 13.

After graduating from Bromley Technical High School at the age of 16, David started working as a commercial artist.

David Bowie was also a stand-in with a number of bands and the leader of his own group, Davy Jones and the Lower Third.

David Bowie changed his last name to Bowie to avoid confusion with Davy Jones of The Monkees, a name which was inspired by the knife developed by Jim Bowie, the 19th century American frontiersman.

The first solo album David Bowie recorded was unsuccessful and soon thereafter he decided to take a hiatus from the music world.

But by early 1969, David Bowie had returned full time to the music industry, releasing the hit single "Space Oddity."

The song resonated with the public, sparked in large part by the BBC's use of the single during its coverage of the *Apollo 11* moon landing.

His next work, 1971's *Hunky Dory*, featured two blockbuster hits: the title track that was a tribute to Andy Warhol, the Velvet Underground and Bob Dylan; and "Changes," which came to embody Bowie himself.

As David Bowie's celebrity profile increased, so did his desire to keep fans and critics guessing, first by claiming he was gay, and then introducing Ziggy Stardust, Bowie's imagining of a doomed rock star.

His 1972 album, *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*, made him a bona fide superstar.

By the mid-1970s David Bowie had continued his chameleon style by jettisoning the outrageous costumes and garish sets.

Then in two short years released the albums *David Live* in 1974 and *Young Americans* in 1975.

In 1980 David Bowie, while living in New York, released *Scary Monsters*, a much-lauded album that featured the single "Ashes to Ashes," an updated version of his earlier "Space Oddity."

David Bowie's creative interests were not limited to music.

In 1980, David Bowie performed on Broadway in *The Elephant Man* and his passion for film helped land him the title role in *The Man Who Fell to Earth* in 1976 and a starring role in the film *Labyrinth* in 1986.

Over the next decade, David Bowie bounced back and forth between acting and music.

The most popular of David Bowie creations of late has been Bowie Bonds, financial securities the artist himself backed with royalties from his pre-1990 work.

David Bowie was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996, and was a 2006 recipient of the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

He kept a low profile for several years until the release of his 2013 album, *The Next Day*, which skyrocketed to #2 on the Billboard charts.

He released *Blackstar*, his final album, on his 69th birthday, January 8, 2016.

New York Times critic Jon Pareles noted that it was a "strange, daring and ultimately rewarding" work "with a mood darkened by bitter awareness of mortality."

The world would soon learn that the album had been produced under truly difficult circumstances when the music icon died on January 10, 2016, in New York City, two days after its release.

Mr. Speaker, David Bowie famously said of himself, "I'm not a prophet or a stone aged man, just a mortal with potential of a superman. I'm living on."

Yes, David Bowie truly possessed the ability of an artistic superhuman and will live on in the hearts of his dedicated fans, admirers, and the present and future artists he has inspired around the world.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of David Bowie, the Man Who Fell to Earth and gave the world Ziggy Stardust and who never lacked the courage or confidence to change.

### HONORING CLEVELAND PEPPER

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a multi-talented gentleman, Mr. Cleveland Pepper, owner of Pepper's Upholstery and More.

Mr. Cleveland Pepper is a resident of Cary, Mississippi. He graduated in 1959 from N. D. Taylor High School located in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

He started upholstery in October of 1986 under the leadership of Mr. Fritz Johnson of Hamilton, Michigan. He worked as a trainer for two years and was able to pass all requirements receiving a Certificate in Upholstery in 1987.

Mr. Pepper is a good steward of the community and enjoys learning new information and techniques. He attended a government program at Mississippi Christian Family Center.

He taught upholstery classes through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to assist the unemployed to seek employment and become employable through training and assistance. In 2003 he decided to open Pepper's Upholstery and More in Rolling Fork, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Cleveland Pepper for his hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 7 and Friday, January 8, 2016, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present on the House floor on January 7, 2016, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 13, Rep. Johnson Amendment No. 4; "aye" on Roll Call 14, Rep. Cummings Amendment No. 6; "aye" on Roll Call 15, Rep. Cicilline Amendment No. 7; "aye" on Roll Call 16, Rep. DelBene Amendment No. 8; "aye" on Roll Call 17, Rep. Cicilline Amendment No. 9; "aye" on Roll Call 18, Rep. Pocan Amendment No. 10; "aye" on Roll Call 19, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; "no" on Roll Call 20, On Passage of H.R. 1155, "Searching for and Cutting Regulations That Are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2015 or the SCRUB Act of 2015; "no" on Roll Call 21, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 581, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1927) to amend title 28, United States Code, to improve fairness in class action litigation; "no" on Roll Call 22, on Passage of H. Res. 581, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1927) to amend title 28, United States Code, to improve fairness in class action litigation.

Had I been present on the House floor on Friday, January 8, 2016, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 23, Rep. Cohen Amendment No. 1; "aye" on Roll Call 24, Rep. Conyers Amendment No. 3; "aye" on Roll Call 25, Rep. Deutch Amendment No. 4; "aye" on Roll Call 26, Rep. Moore Amendment No. 5; "aye" on Roll Call 27, Rep. Moore Amendment No. 6; "aye" on Roll Call 28, Rep. Waters Amendment No. 7; "aye" on Roll Call 29, Rep. Johnson Amendment No. 8; "aye" on Roll Call 30, Rep. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9; "aye" on Roll Call 31, Rep. Nadler Amendment No. 10; "aye" on Roll Call 32, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; and "no" on Roll Call 33, On Passage of H.R. 1927 to amend title 28, United States Code, to improve fairness in class action litigation or Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act of 2015.